

Gregory Mendoza
Governor



Stephen Roe Lewis
Lieutenant Governor

GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY

Executive Office

May 3, 2012

"A New Generation of Leadership Serving the People"

Nancy Rumrill
U.S. EPA Region 9
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105

Re: *Opposition to the Florence Copper Project*

Dear Ms. Rumrill:

We write to express our deep concern about the Curis Resources Ltd.'s proposed mining project in the Town of Florence, Pinal County, Arizona, known as the Florence Copper Project. Curis proposes the use of a potentially dangerous and unprecedented form of mining called *in situ* leach mining, the likes of which have not been attempted on a commercial scale in the United States.

The Florence Copper Project is located in the heart of the town of Florence near current and future residential development. The proposed project is also located on the Gila River and upstream from the Gila River Indian Community. The possibility of groundwater contamination, as well as other potentially unsafe hazards often associated with unproven mining technologies, presents too great a risk for the Community and its members, habitants of the town of Florence, and surrounding areas.

The Community worked hard to secure its water rights to the Gila River; the Community understands how precious water is to our Community, to the Town of Florence as well as to the environment. Thus, the Gila River Indian Community is proud to support our neighbors, the Town of Florence, in opposing the Florence Copper Project.

Sincerely,

Gregory Mendoza, Governor
Gila River Indian Community